

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STATE 259502

ATTENTION: MR. RIEMER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH

SUBJECT: ANSWER TO U.N. UNDER SECRETARY VAN LAETHEM'S
AUGUST 20 LETTER ON GUIDELINES

REF: EC 114/13 (8-2-1)

1. SET FORTH BELOW IS THE DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED ANSWER TO
UNDER SECRETARY VAN LAETHEM'S LETTER OF AUGUST 20 (REFER-
ENCE NO. EC 114/13 8-2-1). IT IS PREPARED FOR AMBASSADOR
SCRANTON'S SIGNATURE. THE CONTENT IS DELIBERATELY GENERAL
BECAUSE THE MAIN TASK OF PROVIDING GUIDELINES WILL BE
PURSUED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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(ACAST) NEXT MONTH. DETAILED ADVICE IS NOT LIKELY TO BE

HELPFUL. WE HAVE BEEN, HOWEVER, IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH
BRUCE BILLINGS, THE U.S. ACAST MEMBER, CONCERNING COUNTRY
PAPERS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL:
I AM PLEASED TO ANSWER YOUR LETTER OF AUGUST 20 WHICH RE-
QUESTS THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONCERNING
THE GUIDELINES FOR THE DRAFTING OF THE NATIONAL PAPERS
WHICH WILL BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT.

I WOULD LIKE TO STATE AT THE OUTSET THAT U.S. VIEWS ON THE
MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE ARE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT
WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN ECOSOC RESOLUTION
2028 (LXI).

OUR COMMENTARY BELOW SETS FORTH SOME GENERAL SUGGESTIONS
ABOUT GUIDELINES ON NATIONAL OR COUNTRY PAPERS WHICH IN
OUR OPINION WILL BEST SERVE THE PURPOSES OF THE CONFERENCE.

(A) THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE FORMULATION
OF A COUNTRY PAPER SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD AS A MAJOR PLANNING
EXERCISE WITHIN THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM. PREPARATORY ACTIV-
ITIES TO THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE REGARDED AS EDUCATIONAL
FOR ALL COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO QUESTIONS
BEARING UPON THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. IN THIS CONTEXT,
THE COUNTRY PAPER PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DEVELOPED
AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ALIKE TO REVIEW THEIR NATIONAL
NEEDS AND POTENTIAL FOR APPLYING TECHNOLOGY TO THEIR ECO-
NOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. IN THE CASE OF DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES, THIS EXERCISE CAN BRING INTO SHARPER FOCUS THEIR
POTENTIAL FOR ASSISTING THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ADOPT-
ING TECHNOLOGIES SUITED TO THEIR NEEDS.

(B) THE COUNTRY PAPER MUST BE INTENDED AS A FACTUAL
REVIEW APPROPRIATE TO ITS OWN SITUATION, ESCHEWING POLIT-
ICAL COMMENT FOR ITS OWN SAKE; IT SHOULD ADDRESS PROBLEMS
OF TECHNOLOGY FLOW AND DEVELOPMENT BOTH MATERIAL AND HUMAN.

(C) THE PAPERS SHOULD NECESSARILY DIFFER IN EMPHASIS,
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GIVEN THE DIFFERENT ROLES IMPLIED BY THE GENERAL PURPOSES
OF THE CONFERENCE. THUS, THE DEVELOPED COUNTRY PAPER
SHOULD CALL FOR SOME DISCUSSION OF THE COUNTRY'S DOMESTIC
AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE WITH THE ADOPTION AND ADAPTA-
TION OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING ILLUSTRATIONS OF SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS THAT MAY HINDER THE PROCESS. THE
ACCOUNT SHOULD ADDRESS DEVELOPED COUNTRY AND LESS DEVELOPED
COUNTRY ALIKE SO THAT OPERATIONS CAN BE SEEN IN THEIR

INTERNATIONAL VALIDITY AND PERSPECTIVE.

(D) IN THE CASE OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY, A STATEMENT OF NEEDS FOR PARTICULAR TECHNOLOGIES AND SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS WILL BE HELPFUL IF THEY ARE SET FORTH IN PRIORITY ORDER. DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY, SHOULD DRAW UPON THE HISTORICAL RECORD (ESPECIALLY THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE) TO POINT OUT THE CHARACTERISTICS OF LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH MAY BE CONDUCIVE TO SUCCESSFUL INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND TO THEIR CONTINUED UTILIZATION OF LOCAL MANAGEMENT.

(E) WE DO NOT ADVOCATE SEPARATE COUNTRY STUDIES FOR EACH AREA OF TECHNOLOGY, BECAUSE A PAPER CONSTITUTING AN INTEGRATED WHOLE PROVIDES A SPECIAL UNDERSTANDING OF A COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO TECHNOLOGY. THIS DOES NOT PRECLUDE DIFFERENTIATED DISCUSSION OF EACH TECHNOLOGY AREA, WHICH MAY BE ILLUMINATING IN ITSELF. IN THIS RESPECT AS IN OTHERS, WE ENDORSE COUNTRY PAPER GUIDELINES PROPOSED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION.

(F) WE QUESTION WHETHER THE COUNTRY PAPER SHOULD NECESSARILY BE CONFINED TO A FEW PAGES. THE PAPER OUGHT TO BE USEFUL AS AN ANALYSIS OF A COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS WHICH ARE LIKELY TO BE RESOLVED WITH THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. IT SHOULD BE AS EXTENSIVE AS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES AMONG COUNTRIES IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCE AND TO ASSIST ALL WHO WILL BE ENGAGED IN STRENGTHENING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE PARTICULAR DEVELOPING COUNTRY.

(G) IN ACCORD WITH THE CONCEPT OF THE COUNTRY PAPER AS UNCLASSIFIED

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WE UNDERSTAND IT ON THE BASIS OF OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS THE UNITED STATES IS EVEN NOW EXPLORING HOW BEST TO PRODUCE ITS OWN COUNTRY PAPER DESIGNED TO REVIEW PAST AND CURRENT PERFORMANCE IN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD, IN AN ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY RECURRING SITUATIONS WHICH MAY EITHER FACILITATE OR HINDER THE PROCESS OF APPLYING TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES. THE PAPER MAY HELPFULLY INCLUDE AN ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC OBSTACLES THAT HAVE IMPEDED OR HINDERED PARTICULAR TRANSFERS OF TECHNOLOGIES FROM THE UNITED STATES, WHETHER SUCH IMPEDIMENTS ARE DOMESTIC IN NATURE OR CAUSED BY CIRCUMSTANCE IN THE RECEIVING COUNTRY.

WE FEEL THAT THE COUNTRY PAPER TO BE PREPARED BY THE

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD HINGE ON A REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF THE COUNTRIES' ACTUAL HUMAN AND MATERIAL POTENTIAL, ON THE TRAINING, INSTITUTIONS, AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS RELEVANT AND AVAILABLE, AND ON THE LOCAL PHYSICAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT WITH WHICH FURTHER TECHNOLOGY MUST BE ASSOCIATED. THESE NEED TO BE DISCUSSED IN TERMS WHICH WILL ALLOW A PERCEPTION OF PRIORITIES AND THE CAPACITY FOR MAINTAINING THE TECHNOLOGY TO BE IMPORTED.

THE UNITED STATES WILL BE INTERESTED IN OTHER COUNTRY PAPERS, EXPECTING TO LEARN MUCH FROM THEM. WE BELIEVE THEIR CAREFUL PREPARATION BY BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN LEAD TO A CONSOLIDATED PRODUCT WHICH WILL GO FAR TO ENSURE A USEFUL RESULT FOR ALL COUNTRIES FROM THE CONFERENCE EFFORT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SET FORTH THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES ABOUT GUIDELINES. IF WE CAN BE OF FURTHER ASSISTANCE, PLEASE INFORM US. THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE CONFERENCE CONTINUES TO BE THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK. WITH KIND REGARDS, YOURS SINCERELY. END TEXT.
ROBINSON

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